

APPENDIX

The pending claims and their status are as follows:

1. (currently amended) A sterile patch comprising a breathable backing coated with a polyvinylpyrrolidone-based hydrogel, the hydrogel comprising one or more local anesthetics or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, a poly(ethylene glycol) and an acrylic polymer.
2. canceled.
3. (original) The patch of claim 1, wherein the breathable backing comprises a polyester/polyether copolymer film.
4. (original) The patch of claim 1, wherein the hydrogel further comprises a preservative.
5. (original) The patch of claim 1, wherein the local anesthetic comprises a sodium-channel blocker, an antidepressant, an NMDA receptor antagonist, or an opioid, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof or a mixture thereof.
6. (original) The patch of claim 5, wherein the sodium-channel blocker is lidocaine or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.
12. (currently amended) A package containing a sterile patch, the patch comprising a breathable backing coated with a polyvinylpyrrolidone-based hydrogel, the hydrogel comprising one or more local anesthetics or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, a poly(ethylene glycol) and an acrylic polymer.
13. (original) The package of claim 12, wherein the breathable backing comprises a polyester/polyether copolymer film.
14. (original) The patch of claim 12, wherein the hydrogel further comprises a preservative.
15. (original) The package of claim 12, wherein the local anesthetic comprises a sodium-channel blocker, an antidepressant, an NMDA receptor antagonist, or an opioid, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof or a mixture thereof.
16. (original) The package of claim 15, wherein the sodium-channel blocker is lidocaine or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.
22. (currently amended) A method of inducing local anesthesia in a mammal comprising topically applying a sterile patch to the mammal, the patch comprising a breathable backing coated with a polyvinylpyrrolidone-based hydrogel, the hydrogel comprising one or more local anesthetics or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, a poly(ethylene glycol) and an acrylic polymer.
23. canceled.
24. (original) The method of claim 22, wherein the breathable backing comprises a polyester/polyether copolymer film.
25. (original) The patch of claim 22, wherein the hydrogel further comprises a preservative.

26. (original) The method of claim 22, wherein the local anesthetic comprises a sodium-channel blocker, an antidepressant, an NMDA receptor antagonist, or an opioid, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof or a mixture thereof.

27. (original) The method of claim 26, wherein the sodium-channel blocker is lidocaine or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

54. (currently added) The patch of claim 1, wherein the hydrogel comprises from about 5% to about 35%, by weight, of polyvinylpyrrolidone.

55. (currently added) The patch of claim 1, wherein the hydrogel comprises from about 10% to about 30%, by weight, of polyvinylpyrrolidone.

56. (currently added) The patch of claim 1, wherein the hydrogel comprises from about 0.5% to about 20%, by weight, of local anesthetic.

57. (currently added) The patch of claim 1, wherein the poly(ethylene glycol) is PEG-4, PEG-6, PEG-7, PEG-8, PEG-9, PEG-10, PEG-12, PEG-14, PEG-16, PEG-18, PEG-20, PEG-32, PEG-55, PEG-90, PEG-100, PEG-135, PEG-180, PEG-240, or a mixture thereof.

58. (currently added) The patch of claim 1, wherein the acrylic polymer is polyacrylamide, polymethacrylic acid, polyacrylic acid, or a mixture thereof.

59. (currently added) The method of claim 22, wherein the patch is applied to a non-intact skin of the mammal.

60. (currently added) The method of claim 57, wherein the patch is applied to a burn or wound of the skin.

61. (currently added) The method of claim 58, wherein the patch is applied to a surgically closed wound of the skin.